**Proposal of Port Blair as a Free Port**

1994. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any proposal from the Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Island for the development of Port Blair as a free port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon and if no decision has been taken what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. No specific proposal for development of Port Blair as a free port has been received from the Andaman & Nicobar Island Administration.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Funds for EPZ, Kandla**

1995. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export Processing Zone, Kandla had urged the Central Government to provide more funds to implement the development schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allotted during 1993-94;

(d) the amount utilised and the new projects undertaken during 1993-94; and

(e) the new projects to be undertaken during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) Implementation of development schemes in Export Processing Zones is an ongoing process for which funds are provided out of annual budget allocations. The specific work; undertaken and the amount spent thereon by the Kandla Free Trade Zone during 1993-94 and 1994-95 are as follows:—

| S.No. | Description of work | Amount spent (Rs. lakhs) |
|---|---|---|
| | **1993-94** | |
| 1. | 11Nos. Industrial sheds | 129.15 |
| 2. | 10 Nos. staff quarters | 27.46 |
| 3. | Roads in the extended area | 29.47 |
| 4. | Other infrastructural work | 7.29 |
| | | 193.29 |
| | **1994-95** | |
| 1. | 8 Nos. Industrial sheds | 108.68 |
| 2. | 10 Nos. Staff quarters | 30.30 |
| 3. | Water tank with 5 lakh litre capacity | 7.87 |
| 4. | Purchase of city office accommodation at Ahmedabad | 17.50 |
| 5. | Other infrastructural works | 35.34 |
| | | 199.69 |

**Campaign to Boost Rice-export**

1996. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched an aggressive campaign to bost its rice export especially the non-basmati variety to West Asia;

(b) if so, what are the full details thereof; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken to ensure that India's rice export would increase in the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The steps taken to promote export of rice include, *inter-alia*, conducting publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad;